

California Academy of Sciences.

Post Office Box 2247.

San Francisco, Nov. 5. 1884

Dear Dr Gray:

I answer in this, your previous letter as well as the last, and will try to explain myself in respect to names. — In the first place I do not greatly care for them, and if a genus is to be named for me I should prefer it to be after my death, (with a copy on asbestos mailed to my residence) — In the next place your Borragineous plant is altogether too unsightly. — And I hereby wish it distinctly understood that no plant which is of an ill smell, covered with prickles or of which the fruit stands on its head — is to be christened after me. — I should not like such an erroneous opinion of my appearance and habits to become current.

I regard to specific names, your argument that one must either be married or single, hardly covers the ground. — In

which class would place those unfortunates
against whom the the elder Weller so
pathetically warned his son Samuel?

"Whom the Gods wish to destroy
they first make mad", and who knows
but I might to-morrow take it into my
head to marry a man named Smith, —
what ^{should} you do with species named for me
— Smithiae?

Therefore please evolve a
Generic name for your Lonely weed
out of your inner consciousness, and
if out of your kindly feeling you sometimes
wish to name species for me, call them
Layne.

Wishing you as much joy of Criticismum
as Mr Greene seems to be getting out of it

I am

Yours Respectfully
Mary R. Curran